

All R. Artist 321

Chapter 321: Wherever the Thigh Goes, It's Still a Thigh

“Could it be that I’m a masochist?”

“Who would have thought a detective novel could be written like this!”

Dezhi tends to guess the murderer while reading the novel, suspecting one by one, excluding one by one, almost guessing the motives and methods of every person he suspects...

But still, he was outwitted by Chu Kuang!

So, when he saw Poirot reveal the name of the murderer, he was shocked, his hair standing on end, and cold sweat flowing.

Shocked, he also cursed, feeling like the author was making fun of readers –

Which was indeed true.

Chu Kuang was actually making fun of readers.

From any standpoint, the word “making fun” is not an exaggeration.

But why did Cao Dezhi feel embarrassed?

Because this was not a simple April Fool’s prank, it was an intellectual crushing!

Through confessions and case analysis, it can be seen that...

Except for some revealing clues that Chu Kuang had to avoid due to the way of narration, he didn’t deliberately hide any clues in the book.

In some places, there were even strong implications in the textual narration!

This would only be discovered when looking back and comparing it with the confession.

Therefore, this book could be considered a fair detective duel between the author and the reader.

The annoying part for Cao Dezhi was this...

Chu Kuang had already revealed the identity of the murderer through numerous foreshadowings in the early part of the book...

But it was Chu Kuang's utilization of reader's presumptions that created a blind spot in the deduction, that's why Dezhi found the ending so unbelievable!

Dezhi felt like he had defiantly walked into Chu Kuang's trap.

The evidence had been shown early on, he just didn't as a reader spot it.

There are some detective novels that will keep the key evidence until the end, hidden in the detective's mind. In such circumstances, it's understandable for readers to have no clue about the murderer.

Because the author doesn't write out the key evidence.

But Auntie Agatha is a very orthodox author. She almost never hides her evidence until the end!

She gives the reader the chance to solve the case, challenging the detective's speed of solving it, it all depends whether the reader is able to spot the details she has hidden in the text.

"Despite reading so many detective novels..."

Dezhi was talking to himself, then suddenly slapped his thigh forcefully:

“No, it’s useless to have read many detective novels, because the narrative method of this novel is groundbreaking. There has never been such a writing style in the mystery novels circle before!”

That’s why would instinctively think that “I” am not the murderer!

Because Cao Dezhi identifies himself as “I”!

Who am I?

I am Xie Shepherd!

If Dezhi had seen a TV show called “Legend of the Martial Arts”, at this moment, he would certainly see the logic of a character named Ji Wuming.

“So it was me...who killed me?”

But who defined that “I” can’t be the murderer?

There’s no such rule!

He just subconsciously excluded “I” as the murderer.

What Chu Kuang did was simple.

Breaking the rules and redefining the detective’s “anything is possible”!

“This novel almost subverts the traditional method of writing mystery novels!”

Dezhi is almost certain that once this novel is published, it will provoke countless mystery writers’ imitations—

Dezhi’s prediction was not wrong.

Following the release of Auntie Agatha's "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" on Earth, many writers imitated this writing technique.

This style has a unique name.

"Narrative Trickery"

As the name suggests.

It refers to the narrative ruse in which the author deliberately hides or misleads certain facts from the reader through the structure of the article or language skills, revealing the truth of the case only at the end, leaving the reader with a sense of indescribable awe.

Auntie Agatha is the pioneer of narrative trickery!

No wonder she's known as the old pioneer of the world of whodunits.

Narrative trickery is just one of the methods she introduced, the trends she sparked with her other innovations were even more terrifying.

In fact, in terms of narrative trickery, later works homage it and imitate it, like "Dondon Bridge" falling and so on.

"The opportunity has come!"

After experiencing great shock, Cao Dezhi felt like he was floating: "This novel is sure to become a hot topic!"

Can't Silver Blue's detective novels do anything?

That was then!

We have Chu Kuang now!

At this time, Dezhi remembered the depressed and reluctant look on Ol' Xiong's face when giving him the novel.

Dezhi now understood the other's feelings more and more, he could hardly help but burst out laughing!

Hehe.

Chu Kuang really was precious!

If Dezhi was now to send Chu Kuang back to the Fantasy Department, his face probably wouldn't look much better than Ol' Xiong's.

Of course.

Who would want to lose such a big catch?

It must be due to our good luck, this big catch, has actually come to our mystery department!

It has to be said...

Chu Kuang, wherever he goes, would still be a big catch!

...

There is no doubt that "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" must be published, moreover, it must be properly promoted. For this reason, Dezhi has held a meeting.

"Everyone, check out this novel!"

The editors of the mystery department looked at each other, then looked to Dezhi: "Boss, do we have some good news?"

These editors had never seen Dezhi so happy.

Dezhi was usually glum, after all, Silver Blue Books held regular meetings and, as the chief editor of the mystery department, Dezhi bore the brunt of any criticism. Over time, how could he keep his spirits up?

“You’ll know once you read it!”

Brimming with pride, Dezhi began, “We have about three hours until the end of the day. That should be enough for you to finish it.”

“Sounds great.”

Everyone was thrilled. The chief editor had spoken; work could be set aside for now, so they could relax and enjoy a novel. How delightful!

Yes.

It indeed was quite delightful...

Some leaned back in their chairs, others crossed their legs, taking occasional sips of tea, contentedly engrossed in their detective novels—a truly ideal world for editors!

Dezhi made no comments.

It’s not like there was a pressing matter in the department anyway. Having decided to focus on ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’, it was only natural for his subordinates to familiarize themselves with it.

He himself also used this opportunity to re-read ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’.

Knowing the ending and intentionally scouring for clues, Dezhi saw many details this time around which he had overlooked during his first read.

For instance, when he got to Chapter Three...

“So right at their first meeting, the ending was foreshadowed. The first appearance of Poirot, misplacing his pumpkin, accidentally hitting Shepherd...”

Dezhi chuckled.

The hint reminded him of metaphors in movies, which first-time readers would never concentrate on as much.

Then upon re-reading Poirot’s character description, Dezhi found himself growing even more fond of him.

Furthermore.

Upon re-evaluating Dr. Shepherd, Dezhi couldn’t help but feel moved.

Poirot says in the book, “Everyone harbors some latent evil thoughts. If not triggered by specific circumstances, one might lead an honorable life. However, if they succumb to temptation, allowing their evil thoughts to overpower their will, they will never recover.”

Dr. Shepherd fits this precisely.

He wasn’t inherently bad.

Just imagine that if he had told the truth about Flora’s death, not been greedy for that blood-money, and remained a humble country doctor, he might have led a simple fair life. However, his obsession with wealth ruined everything. After spinning his web of lies, he had to keep adding to it to cover his tracks. What’s worse, is he went further down the path, becoming increasingly unhinged and losing self-control.

Lost in the world of greed, seeking constantly, fearing loss, he met his inevitable downfall.

But did he have any regrets?

Maybe this manuscript proves it. He still cared about his reputation, so when the truth was about to be revealed, he went as far as to kill Roger.

A risky and relentless approach.

His confession served both as a futile justification for the murder he committed and as a peculiar plea for forgiveness. Constantly highlighting others' faults to comfort himself. Otherwise, why would he choose suicide to end his life-

He didn't want his sister to know the truth.

Although his sister's intelligence might have led her to guess why he committed suicide.

The concluding line in the novel is intriguing, "If only Poirot had not retired here to grow pumpkins."

This shows Shepherd's attachment to life.

By the time Dezhi finished re-reading the novel, it was getting late, and the other editors too had reached the ending.

"Pfft!"

The editor sitting to Dezhi's right almost choked on his tea, spluttering it out, completely forgetting to clean up and blurted out:

"The killer is Shepherd!?"

Whoosh!

It was as if a bomb went off.

The other editors who hadn't finished the novel stared at the one who spoiled it, their moods instantaneously shattered.

"I'll kill you!!"

"Why the spoiler!!"

"I wasn't finished!!"

"Even though I almost finished... I still hate you!"

"So Shepherd is the killer... why did you have to blurt it out! I hate you!"

"..."

Quite a few editors were furious.

But after venting their anger, everyone's expressions collectively turned to astonishment. Evidently, they, like Dezhi, never saw it coming.

Amidst the shock...

Yet another shouted, "The murderer is Shepherd!"

Everyone gave him a weird look, "We know, didn't someone already say it?"

"Huh?"

He scratched his head, "Sorry, I was so engrossed. I didn't hear it."

How engrossed must he have been...

Everyone shared a mutual eye-roll.

Claimed he hadn't heard but still blurted it out, another damn spoiler!

Of course.

The ensuing discussion among the editors was inevitable:

"Who wrote this novel, the plot is twisted!"

"Boss, did you manage to snag teacher Carter?"

"The case wasn't top-notch, but that ending, mind-blowing!"

"Felt like the rug pulled out from under me, demolished my understanding of detective novels..."

"If it weren't for the spoiler, I'd have been too shocked to even speak."

"This novel is gonna be huge!"

"Ah, I'd suspected Shepherd before, but dismissed it later. Who could've thought..."

"I guessed it in the penultimate chapter, but wasn't quite sure. It's not impossible to guess the murderer, it's just... unbelievable. I've never seen a detective novel like this!"

"Who indeed wrote this?"

"..."

Dezhi met the eyes of everyone present, wearing a faint smile, "It's by Chu Kuang."

The author of this novel was Chu Kuang—

Chu Kuang's rise to fame in the mystery genre started from this small editorial department!

Chapter 322: Chu Kuang's Stupid Fan

"The culprit is him!"

At the same time, in Lin Yuan's studio, Jin Mu, who had just finished reading the novel, suddenly let out a massive gasp!

Luo Wei had knocked off work by then.

Lin Yuan was about to head home when he heard Jin Mu's gasp and stopped in his tracks.

He felt that Jin Mu must have something to say.

Indeed, Jin Mu did have something to say. He had a lot of questions, but they all boiled down to one fundamental issue:

"Boss, this detective novel is mind-blowing! The murderer turned out to be Xie Shepherd, the protagonist from the first-person perspective. It's just unbelievable! How did you come up with such a writing technique..."

"Narrative Trickery." Lin Yuan said.

"What the hell?" Jin Mu looked confused.

Lin Yuan explained: "The trickery of 'Narrative Trickery' — narrative deception, this is the technique applied in 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'."

Jin Mu opened his mouth wide.

After a long silence, he muttered, "Narrative Trickery... narrative deception... because of the novel's narrative approach, readers are susceptible to falling into this textual trap from the very start, but it's not merely about wordplay. No wonder Chu Kuang..."

Some novels employing Narrative Trickery simply play games with words.

However, 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' isn't one of them. As one of the earliest novels using this form of narrative, this work simply exploits the cognitive blind spots of the readers. The clues are not hidden, so some readers may guess the murderer beforehand.

Of course.

For those who've never encountered narrative deception, relying solely on the clues provided in the novel to deduce the murderer's identity would be next to impossible.

Unless they receive a strong hint like "you will absolutely never guess the culprit of this case" from the start.

"Got it."

After Lin Yuan left, Jin Mu, somewhat excited, stood up and contacted Silver Blue Books to discuss the publication of the new novel.

Following Jin Mu's negotiation with Silver Blue Books, they also began researching promotional strategies for 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' that very night.

Without a doubt.

As one of the main pillars of Silver Blue Books, GOAT author Chu Kuang's fresh detective story naturally needed to be arranged for the highest promotional level.

It's a matter of prestige!

The next day, the promotion by Silver Blue Books kicked off!

The glamorous headline on the official website was very much in line with the style of Chu Kuang's new book release. The tone was as unabashedly bold as ever, typical of Chu Kuang's book promotion:

[In the name of deduction, declaring war against readers, the new book ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’, Chu Kuang creates yet another new genre!]

Clicking through to the article, every line ended with an exclamation point:

“Chu Kuang’s new detective novel shocks with its release!”

“The ending of the novel will blow your mind!”

“Completely overturning your understanding of deduction!”

“Creating a new creative method for detective novels!”

“Chu Kuang: Always Imitated, Never Surpassed!”

Look at those words: “Creation”, “Shock”, “Explosion”, “Overturn”, “Always Imitated, Never Surpassed”...

Which one isn’t boastful?

Especially the last line, “Always Imitated, Never Surpassed,” which perfectly reflects Chu Kuang’s position in the industry.

Becoming a pioneer and an influencer of several novel genres, Chu Kuang has allowed many people to make a living from them.

So...

Even if the language is a bit boastful, even if the promotion is a bit loud, readers didn’t find the massive new book advertising inappropriate.

On the contrary.

Many people held high hopes for this book—

“Chu Kuang is taking a crack at mystery? Say no more. I’ll buy it.”

“Mystery? I’m not interested. Chu Kuang? I am. No time to talk, the new book is about to be released~”

“As a fan of Chu, having recently finished ‘A Bowl of Spring Noodles’, I should take a look at Chu Kuang’s new book just for the sake of this novel alone. Moreover, I’m a dedicated mystery enthusiast, and we Chu fans love mystery novels the most!”

“A detective novel? Heck no... Oh, it’s written by Chu Kuang, well, never mind then.”

“Hahaha, so true. Chu Kuang has completely broken genre boundaries, whatever he writes people are buying.”

“Mostly because, even though the genres are always changing, the remarkable thing about Chu Kuang is that he writes wonderfully in every genre!”

“Wow, that line is so domineering: ‘Always Imitated, Never Surpassed.’ Chu Kuang, the old rascal, is truly impressive!”

“...”

Unbeknownst to the readers.

A maestro from the far-flung planet of the detective novel world also used the phrase “Always Imitated, Never Surpassed” to describe Agatha Christie’s work.

Sir Conan Doyle made a cake called “mystery” and created the first detective in the detective world, Sherlock Holmes!

But Christie, in a way that sold explosively worldwide, allowed many more people to taste this cake, and created the second detective in the detective world, Poirot!

This can be seen from many detective works influenced by Christie.

Sir Conan and Christie are the true pioneers of the detective literature world.

If the former is the king, the latter is undoubtedly the queen.

However, many readers in the detective literature circles still aren't entirely convinced.

Chu Kuang has a significant reputation, making it common knowledge that he excels at creating new genres, with plenty of past achievements to prove this.

But because readers of detective literature have their own comprehension of this genre, they find it hard to conceive of how one could create a novel detective genre?

Would even the top names like Carter in the detective literature circles dare claim they can create a novel that pioneers a new detective genre?

The same doubts were also arising in the minds of some writers in the detective fiction circle.

Quite a few of them were discussing privately:

"Chu Kuang's new book is going to be a detective novel, and he claims to invent a new genre of detective fiction. What do you think?"

Mystery and fantasy are completely different genres and literary fields, but Chu Kuang's sales are just too impressive!

He is so well-known among many authors in the detective fiction circle!

"I'm planning on using my computer to read it."

"I'll read it on my phone, so I can lie down while doing so."

“Enough, you guys... If anyone other than Chu Kuang said this, I would probably slap them in the face. But if it’s Chu Kuang, I will keep my opinions reserved.”

Someone spoke uncertainly.

Immediately, someone echoed: “Let’s just wait and see. If Chu Kuang does indeed establish a new genre of detective fiction, his contribution to the field would be enormous.”

“There should be some innovations.”

A certain detective author made a more objective judgement:

“It might not be enough to establish a new genre, but innovation should be present. Otherwise, they wouldn’t dare to make such bold statements in their promotion, considering the risk of a backlash.”

According to the conventions of book promotions, declaring a minor innovation as “establishing a new genre” is not at all inappropriate.

After all, it’s a widely acknowledged fact...

A promotion is essentially boasting based on the quality of the work.

Now, everyone is curious about how much truth there is in the promotion and how much is fluff.

As long as there is a certain degree of innovation, no one would nitpick the exaggerated claims in the promotion. That’s also a consensus in the industry.

Otherwise, it’s like sabotaging each other’s livelihood.

After all, all authors would do some self-aggrandizing in their promotions, which is what we call boasting.

Just make sure not to overdo it.

If I stop you from boasting a bit today, what will happen if you forbid me to exaggerate in the future?

The phenomenon of literary personnel belittling each other? Yes.

The practice of mutual flattery in the book industry? Also yes.

So, anyone with a bit of intelligence would know not to jump to conclusions too early at this stage —

As if!

There would always be people who jump to conclusions before even reading the work, which is why there is so much backfire.

This time is no exception.

When the news of Chu Kuang writing a detective novel spread from Silver Blue Books and most people in the circle were still observing, some people began to habitually jump to conclusions—

Don't get me wrong.

This time it's not slander, but praise!

"I learned online today that Chu Kuang is writing a detective novel. Then I saw someone say that Chu Kuang has never written a detective novel before, and there were no detectable elements in his previous works. Therefore, they speculated that the promotion for Chu Kuang's new detective novel is overhyped. I feel obligated to speak out: Chu Kuang's new detective novel would not disappoint!"

"The reason is simple."

"Those who still doubt Chu Kuang surely don't understand him. Being a humble man, I have just finished reading all of Chu Kuang's works. After finishing, I can only say, there were detectable

elements in Chu Kuang's previous long story 'Ghost Blows Out the Light'. In fact, that novel encompasses numerous pieces of knowledge and writing elements. So many that I could list more than seven or eight."

"Some people will say that even if Chu Kuang's previous books had detective elements, it doesn't mean that he is good at writing detective stories."

"Wrong! Looking back at all of Chu Kuang's works since his debut, regardless of whether he had written that genre before, as long as he was willing to write, he succeeded! Someone who understands grave robbery would not understand detection?"

"Chu Kuang is number one in the world! Those who understand, understand!"

This long post was published in the Tribe, and the one who posted it is named Shen Jiarui.

A famous short story writer!

Short story writers might have a disadvantage in this matter, but Shen Jiarui doesn't have this weakness, because his short stories are all about detection!

So, Shen Jiarui is actually a detective fiction writer who excels in short stories!

He holds a certain status in the industry.

As a result, his statement highlights one thing, "praise"!

As for why Shen Jiarui praised so highly, it's because he previously lost to Chu Kuang's "A Bowl of Spring Noodles" in a short story contest.

After losing, Shen Jiarui read all of Chu Kuang's works, the more he read, the more he liked them, the more he read, the more amazed he became!

Especially after reading "Ghost Blows Out the Light", Shen Jiarui was utterly astounded by Chu Kuang!

“A true genius of an author! There might not be any genre that Chu Kuang cannot write!”

This is the conclusion Shen Jiarui came to after reading all of Chu Kuang’s works.

This guy is a freak!

So now, Shen Jiarui has become Chu Kuang’s hardcore fan, or to be precise, a crazy fan!

In the eyes of a crazy fan, no doubt about Chu Kuang is tolerable, hence this long post.

After the post was published, Shen Jiarui’s comments section blew up:

“I’m willing to call you the number one Chu Kuang Fan!”

“Hahaha, did the number one Chu Kuang Fan come online again?”

“Shen Jiarui: It’s not directed at anyone. I’m saying that everyone here, except Chu Kuang, are all xx.”

“Are you Chu Kuang’s number one fan?”

“Wow, Shen Teacher, you’re a big shot in the detective circle, and now you’re over-praising a newcomer in detective fiction?”

“...”

Shen Jiarui’s title as the number one Chu Kuang Fan was solidified, but it was precisely because of Shen Jiarui’s high praise that the detective fiction circle’s attention to Chu Kuang’s new book jumped up a notch!

Chapter 323: Who Else Is There

Shen Jiarui’s bluffing left many writers in the detective circle flabbergasted.

Shen Jiarui...

Would this be considered the highest level of online troll in history?

If you, Shen Jiarui, have read this book, then it's acceptable, but you clearly haven't. You are so audacious and unashamed, aren't you afraid of embarrassment afterwards?

Not only are the mystery writers dumbfounded.

The publishing circle is also a bit confused.

While being perplexed, they also can't help but be wary, especially those few publishing houses that are on par with Silver Blue Books——

Chu Kuang is going to write a detective story?

Everyone knows Silver Blue Books' mystery department is just for show, are they planning to bring in Chu Kuang to save the day?

But then again.

After Chu Kuang has crossed several genres, nobody dares to say that Chu Kuang absolutely can't write a good detective story, so many people are somewhat panic-stricken.

Regardless of the public's perception, after a few days of promotion, "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" was finally released.

Not following the trend to release at the beginning of the month, given the growing number of authors in various fields as a result of the consolidation of multiple states, everyone has learned to avoid each other, and will not deliberately choose to release new books on any specific day——

For instance, the release date of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" is set on the 12th of March.

With Chu Kuang's reputation, numerous major booksellers in the industry have stocked up substantially.

Reality has also proven that their choice was extremely right.

On the morning of the 12th.

As soon as the bookstore opened, eighty percent of the customers who flocked in were here specifically for "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd"!

"I want a copy of Chu Kuang's new book..."

"I can't recall the title, but it's Chu Kuang's new book, right, right – "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd."

Apparently, some people noticed the promotional stand at the bookstore. On the stand was a gorgeous poster, with this line of words:

[GOAT Chu Kuang's new work "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" officially released, store manager recommends!]

"I'll buy this one – "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd."

"Chu Kuang released a new book? I'll buy one then."

"Three copies of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd."

It seemed evident that some were buying on behalf of others.

At the front desk of a certain bookstore.

The manager, who was specifically observing the sales situation, couldn't help but smile after seeing the sales of "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," and made a profound remark:

“The literary circle has gained another author who can live off his fame.”

This is no small praise!

Usually, readers will flip through a book before buying it.

Although a novel is not expensive, it is still money spent, so caution is always needed.

But there are some authors, whose works the readers don't even flip through, but directly purchase!

Because they trust this author's level of skill tremendously!

The previous's “Ghost Blows Out the Light” did not have such power, and many readers would still flip through it before deciding whether or not to buy it.

However, when it came to “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd,” readers basically had no hesitation!

Even though Chu Kuang, as he had done in the past, wrote on a theme he had never touched before, it didn't affect readers' enthusiasm to buy.

This is a typical example of authors who can live off their fame!

“It also has to do with Chu Kuang becoming a GOAT.”

The secretary next to the manager mused, referring to the GOAT award established by the Literature and Art Association.

Those who received the GOAT award saw their value double.

Authors who could make readers decisively spend money were usually of the same calibre who started with the GOAT award.

“We might have to restock.”

After observing for a while longer, the secretary revealed a smile.

The manager nodded. The first-day sales of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” would likely be quite impressive in the data, and the first-day data is the most direct reflection of an author’s influence!

...

Sure enough.

When the first-day sales of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” were announced, the entire Silver Blue Books was quite thrilled!

Because on the first day this novel was released, including online book shopping channels, it directly sold 914,000 copies!

Almost one million on the first day!

There is a dedicated agency to keep track of this, under the direct control of the Literature and Art Association, like the movie box office, official counts are announced daily.

Keep in mind this is just the first day!

Given the confidence in the reputation of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd,” Silver Blue Books’ mystery department does not believe that the subsequent sales of this book would be weak——

“What was it again?”

Cao Dezhi laughed like an 84.26 kg fool:” A big shot is a big shot wherever they go!”

The same conclusion also appeared in the Fantasy Department of Silver Blue Books.

Although Chu Kuang's new book has little to do with the Fantasy Department, the department is still closely following the news of this novel. Looking at the official sales data, the editors in the department have somewhat complex expressions.

"The Mystery Department is right, a big shot is a big shot wherever they go..."

"It's crude, the correct saying should be, a wolf travels a thousand miles to eat meat!"

"I was originally hoping that this novel would receive a lukewarm response, and that Teacher Chu Kuang would return to our arms and continue writing fantasy novels..."

"Looking at the feedback on the Internet, we can't depend on that."

"I bought a copy too, I'll read it tonight. I have a buddy in the Mystery Department who keeps telling me that this book is going to explode."

"..."

Inside Silver Blue Books, rumors had been circulating about Chu Kuang's incredible new book. However, due to the pre-publication confidentiality principle, those outside the department could not access the specific content.

But as one editor put it.

With the release of 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' and the first batch of readers finishing the novel, the online reviews have exploded!

Blue Star's mystery readers experienced narrative trickery for the first time!

On a certain book website.

The first popular comment about 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', which avoids spoilers as much as possible, resonated the most:

“The murderer is him!!!”

This popular comment got: 34566 likes

Though a kind of useless correct statement, which is like saying nothing, but considering it avoids spoilers, this comment is a strong hint.

The second popular comment is even more interesting.

Simply two words, and a lot of exclamation marks:

“Damn!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

And a warmer reminder: “To the reader who sees this comment, I suggest you should read ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ before reading online reviews. You’ll thank me for reminding you afterward.”

Anyway, most early comments were implicitly positive.

“If only Poirot hadn’t retired here to grow pumpkins...”

“When I got to the ending, I was dumbstruck.”

“No need for fluff words, this is a must-read, you’d regret it if you don’t experience it.”

“No exaggeration, I had cold sweats reading the ending.”

“Damn old rascal Chu Kuang fooled me well, and I was still willingly fooled.”

“Anyone who predicted the killer beforehand, I bow to you!”

“Ahhhhh! The murderer is Xie Shepherd!!!!!!!!!!”

“The person above is too unkind, I suggest the administrator monitors comments, with spoilers this book’s reading experience drops directly by 50%.”

“People are actually liking the short review with spoilers... are you guys serious?”

“Folks, I love Poirot!”

“A well-structured mystery, the ending resolves all case doubts; no clues are left, the setup in the early details is perfect too. I can’t believe this is Chu Kuang’s first attempt at mystery! When it comes to cross-genre writing, no one does it like Chu Kuang!”

“...”

In the mystery circle, many chatting groups were also going off instantly, many people had read ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ at the first possible moment.

In a chat group for mystery writers.

The administrator suddenly said: “Just a reminder for those who haven’t started reading ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ to mute the chat history, or life would seem questionable after getting spoiled.”

Some did as suggested, others possessed the curiosity of a cat.

Then the members who didn’t mute saw many usually inactive writers show up, all discussing ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’—

“Silver Blue Books’ promotion didn’t exaggerate, respect, truly started a new genre!”

“Unprecedented creative method in the history of mystery novels.”

“The case can only be described as decent, the murderer is virtually unpredictable, Chu Kuang set a text trap, fooling readers, but this novel is the type that even after being fooled, you’re still amazed at the ending.”

“Who’d have thought that the murderer is ‘I’ in the first person narrative?”

“Enough, I’m inspired for my next book.”

“Not just you, I bet many authors in the circle are inspired.”

“If this writing method becomes popular...damn, the readers will die from exasperation after reading too much of it!”

“Mystery is about digging a plot hole, ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ is the biggest hole I’ve ever seen. Even in the antepenultimate chapter, 99% of readers still can’t guess the murderer!”

“...”

This group member who didn’t mute the chat out of curiosity sent an ellipsis: “Now how am I supposed to read the book?”

Suddenly, the group chat sprouted unkind “hahaha” +1 signs.

Due to some kind of habit, or perhaps compelled, he could only shed a tear and join in the “+1”.

Curiosity killed the cat.

For other novels, knowing the ending in advance decreases the readability at least by 30%.

But for ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’, being spoiled in advance might cause a drop in readability by almost 50%—

A deadly murder on the reading experience!

With the time sliding into the next day and word of mouth fermenting quickly, the sales of ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ exploded, jumping straight to 1.6 million copies!

Higher than the first day!

Even though Blue Star had started merging, and the reader base is growing, the second-day sales genuinely surprised countless people!

Bestseller!

Sensation!

This is a storm belonging to the mystery genre, henceforth everyone stopped doubting the Silver Blue Books' blurb about Chu Kuang "inventing a new type of mystery genre"!

Yes, it did create a new type of writing style.

The murderer can indeed be 'I'—

The breakthrough in this thought process made many mystery writers realize, tricks are not only for the case itself but also for every word readers read!

Truly crafty!

And the most terrifying thing is...

Even if 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' is fooling readers throughout, they are still willing to be fooled by the ending!

On this day.

The latest update that Shen Jiarui posted on the Tribe may only be a simple three words, but it showcased the essence of ego-boosting, those three words were:

"Who's next?!"

Chapter 324: Narrative Trick

And who else is there?

The book is written by Chu Kuang. Why are you so smug? If I didn't know any better, I'd think you, Shen Jiarui, were the author of 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'.

There is resentment within the circle, but they have to admit, what Shen posted about Chu Kuang before was not wrong.

No wonder he's the number one Chu Kuang fan.

Of course, not all of the reviews are positive. 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', as one of the most controversial works by Agatha Christie, has been getting varying reviews—

"The narrative approach is too cheeky. In order to achieve the shocking effect at the end, it sacrifices the brilliance of the case. It feels like it prioritizes trivialities over fundamentals."

"It's clearly fooling the readers, yet many seem happy to be fooled. While it's indeed ingenious, I don't like this kind of detective fiction."

"I also don't like this kind of storytelling. But I have to admit, it represents a new approach to detective-fiction writing. I can only hope that my favorite authors don't pick up this bad habit."

"The quality of a detective story should not be based solely on whether the outcome is unpredictable... This kind of unconventional writing doesn't appeal to me. I prefer unraveling mysteries, rather than playing along with the author's word games."

"The ending is certainly shocking, but am I the only one who found the initial and middle parts sleep-inducing?"

"Even though it's really great, I can't accept this kind of narrative approach. I have this subtle feeling of being played, which feels a little terrible."

"..."

There's a price to pay for tricking readers!

Because not everyone can accept such trickery.

Moreover, there are different types of detective stories, and 'Narrative Trickery' is indeed a bugbear for some mystery fans.

When Agatha Christie released 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', many raised doubts about it, considering it unfair to the reader. Any new development is bound to face controversy.

At this point.

Not only some readers feel utterly deceived, so do some authors!

Yes, some detective novel authors, after reading 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', felt like they've been toyed with. They vented their anger at Chu Kuang after finishing the book.

Most of them just spouted a couple of obscenities and moved on.

But some authors just can't help but vent their frustration, like Leng Guang, a popular detective fiction author from Qi Province.

Leng Guang started his rant on Tribe:

"Ever since last night, people have been recommending 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' to me. I read it with high expectations but ended up extremely disappointed. All I want to say is, this is foul play!"

To say that he was 'ranting' might be an overstatement, as his words were still somewhat polite, but Leng Guang was clearly not satisfied.

Leng Guang, known for his candid and outspoken personality, had previously proposed a 'Five Detective Fiction Rules'.

These rules are quite popular in the circle.

Rule One: The detective cannot solve the case supernaturally.

Rule Two: The criminal must not use an unvented poison or a device that requires an esoteric scientific explanation.

Rule Three: The detective must not solve the case based on clues not hinted at in the novel.

Rule Four: The detective must not rely on so-called 'intuition' to solve the case.

Rule Five: The detective must not be the criminal.

There is no controversy over the first few rules; they're generally accepted within the circle, as they would indeed make the work less interesting.

But the rule stating that the detective must not be the criminal is disregarded by some.

There are some unconventional works in the detective fiction realm that portray the detective as the criminal.

So Leng Guang put forward the 'Five Rules of Detective Fiction', but the circle deleted the fifth rule, thus becoming the 'Four Principles of Detective Fiction'.

This once made Leng Guang furiously criticize many people in the circle:

How dare you simply discard the last rule from my detective fiction principles?

Although 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' doesn't portray the detective as the criminal, the 'I' in the first-person perspective is the criminal, which is somewhat similar to the situation where the detective is the murderer.

That's something Leng Guang absolutely cannot accept!

However, Leng Guang's criticism did not elicit much response because Leng Guang is well known in the detective fiction circle as a big complainer.

Nobody really dislikes Leng Guang.

Though he tends to criticize a lot, there's a sense of authenticity about him.

In fact, there are many detective fiction authors on Earth who also despise the narrative trickery technique and have openly expressed their distaste, such as Queen, a writer only slightly less famous than Agatha Christie (Queen is a pseudonym used by two people).

Queen wouldn't dare to criticize Agatha Christie, but he doesn't like this style.

However, everything has two sides.

Take the well-known Higashino Keigo for instance.

His work 'Malice' is a classic example of narrative trickery. He pays tribute to Agatha Christie across the ages, which shows that Higashino Keigo approves of this approach.

In a synchronous manner.

Another giant in the detective genre of the same era also recognized 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'. This person, Carter, is a monumental figure among the detective fiction authors in Chu Province!

Carter is much more renowned than Leng Guang.

He commented on 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' on Tribe, praising it abundantly:

"The scheme set with the text is a brilliant idea. When I got to the fifth-last chapter, I guessed the killer but it didn't take away from the shock I felt when I finished reading the ending. What a brilliant plot! Chu Kuang has pioneered a new genre of detective fiction! I'm even getting the itch to try this narrative approach. Sadly, I haven't read any of Chu Kuang's other works, but now I want

to say to him, ‘Welcome to the world of detective fiction! I’m looking forward to your future works!’”

The words of a big shot carry a lot of weight.

Even if some of Carter’s readers didn’t like ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’, seeing their idol saying such things made them start leaning towards Chu Kuang:

“Upon reflection, Carter’s words really make sense. This is a new type of detective fiction.”

“Previously, I saw many people describing this style as nauseating. But look at Carter’s broad perspective on this! We should view new things from various angles!”

“Carter is truly broad-minded. This genre will undoubtedly inspire many other works, which is good for the future development of detective fiction.”

“I didn’t expect Carter to also like this book. Hehe, my taste does match that of my idol.”

“...”

A disgruntled Leng Guang left a message in the comments section: “I beg to differ.”

Carter responded with a “^_^”.

By the way, after Leng Guang proposed his Five Laws of Detective Fiction, it was Carter who first deleted the fifth rule.

At that time, Carter praised Leng Guang’s Five Laws of Detective Fiction, applauding Xiao Guang Guang’s brilliance, and then turned around and removed the fifth rule, consolidating it into the widely known ‘Four Principles of Detective Fiction’ in the detective fiction circle...

At the time, Leng Guang was almost brought to tears by the upset.

He was originally quite fond of Carter, but that event made Leng Guang become disillusioned with him.

Today, seeing Carter praise ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’, Leng Guang nearly had a heart attack.

With the emergence of some controversy, the official Weibo of Silver Blue Books spoke out and added an important focus to the detective storm:

“With ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’, Chu Kuang has paved the way for the narrative trickery approach in detective fiction. Narrative trickery refers to narrative deception, which is an outstanding moment for detective fiction. In the future, more innovative works may appear, but none can overshadow the brilliance of Chu Kuang’s work!”

Of course, we will fervently support our own author!

Silver Blue Books is keen to set the narrative tone and make it a fact:

In the field of detective fiction, Chu Kuang spearheaded a new genre with narrative trickery!

Chapter 325: Chu Kuang’s Signature

“Different worlds yet similar experiences.”

Lin Yuan sighed thoughtfully after noticing these movements.

In the terrestrial world, “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” is often hailed as the most controversial work in the history of detective fiction, known for its role in launching Agatha Christie’s reputation.

Perhaps due to his fame trumping that of Christie’s upon the release of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd,” the controversies surrounding Lin Yuan’s version were somewhat subdued. But even fame cannot completely avoid such situations.

Thankfully, the quality of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” is indisputable and represents the orthodoxy of narrative trickery in detective novels.

After all, “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” is the benchmark for works of its genre, fervently imitated but seldom surpassed.

Bear in mind, it ranked twelfth among the one hundred classical detective novels selected by the Mystery Writers of America.

In addition,

In the East and West Detective Novel BEST100 list, it took the fifth place! This list was voted by the Mystery Writers of Neon Association and detective clubs at various universities.

The number one on the list was also one of Christie’s works, one even more impressive, entitled “No One Survived.”

When Lin Yuan was deciding on the book to be adapted, he was drooling over the idea of coming across this novel.

“Boss.”

Jin Mu appeared, reporting the current performance of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd.”

This is the fifth day since the release of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd,” and the novel’s cumulative sales have reached about 5.6 million copies.

However, judging from yesterday’s sales data, it shows a decline in growth.

This relates to the distinct characteristic of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd”—once the plot has been spoiled, the readability of the book significantly decreases.

In the internet age, spoilers are ubiquitous. People have the freedom of speech and can hardly be expected to keep secrets.

“The sales aren’t bad. I wonder if we can break ten million by the end of the month...”

Lin Yuan laughed from the heart. The more readers, the better. Everyone should come join the Blue Star merger!

“Hard to say.”

Jin Mu continued, “Silver Blue Books contacted me, hoping you could participate in a book signing event...”

Book signing.

This is indeed a way to stimulate sales.

Lin Yuan convenient not to reveal his face, he was about to refuse when Jin Mu preemptively said: “No need to show your face, we’ll just sign fifty copies in private and let Silver Blue Books randomly distribute them to various bookstores and online channels.”

“There’s such a tactic?”

Lin Yuan expressed his surprise and then agreed. He even suggested, “How about signing one hundred?”

“Wouldn’t be ideal to have too many.”

Jin Mu smiled, “After all, it’s your first time doing a book signing and rarity increases perceived value. Fifty copies will suffice as a hype tool.”

“Fair enough.”

Lin Yuan nodded.

He started right away with the signing of his name on the fifty books that Silver Blue Books had sent over.

“Sign under the pen name Chu Kuang.”

Jin Mu was quick to remind Lin Yuan just before he put pen to paper.

“Thanks for your reminder.”

Lin Yuan was about to sign his real name.

Jin Mu reminded again, “Given that you’ll face similar situations with other pseudonyms in the future, you might want to vary your handwriting somewhat.”

“Handwriting?”

Lin Yuan went blank for a moment before grasping the idea.

So, he gave it some thought and used flamboyant cursive writing to sign the name “Chu Kuang”.

Wild cursive.

If someone ever asks for Xian Yu’s autograph, Lin Yuan decided to use regular script.

As for Shadow, he would figure that out later.

“The boss has quite the...”

Jin Mu was taken aback by Lin Yuan’s flamboyant handwriting of “Chu Kuang”.

The boss’s handwriting wouldn’t be precisely described as wild cursive, more appropriately as scribble...

Yes, Lin Yuan’s handwriting wasn’t exactly appealing.

It seems the boss is not adept in everything, he has his weaknesses too, Jin Mu thought quietly to himself.

If it was not for the honesty towards the readers, Jin Mu almost wanted to help Lin Yuan with the signing.

It would only take a few moments to sign a hundred characters over fifty books.

Once the signed books are returned to Silver Blue Books, they quickly announced this news to the public:

Fifty copies of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” signed by Chu Kuang are now randomly released for purchase.

It was somewhat late. This sales-boosting proposal should have been presented when the book was first launched, but it was not as heated as it is now.

In any case, Silver Blue Books merely saw this as a promotional gimmick.

As a result, Silver Blue Books surely underestimated fans’ demand for Chu Kuang’s signed books.

The day the news was released.

Sun City Time Bookstore headquarters.

To everyone’s shock, a customer actually drove a van to the bookstore, purchasing a thousand copies of “The Murder of Roger Ackroyd” in one go and had the bookstore staff help load the books.

Some spectators couldn’t resist gathering around.

An unexpected encounter for a journalist passing by, who was startled by the sight.

He launched into interview mode and asked bewildered:

“Why are you buying so many? Do you also own a bookstore? Are the bookstores running out of stock?”

“No.”

The customer chuckled, explaining, “I am a fan of Chu Kuang. I have been following his novels since his first work. This time, I bought so many of Chu Kuang’s new books hoping to get a signed copy of ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’.”

Pfft!

People around him were stunned.

Is this the world of the rich?

Ordering a thousand copies just to get one signed book!?

The reporter, who knew the situation well enough, couldn’t help but say, “As far as I know, there are only fifty signed copies of Chu Kuang’s books. According to the daily sales data of the novel, even if you buy a thousand copies, you can’t guarantee you will get a signed one...”

“Exactly.”

The customer nodded, “That’s why I also posted a reward online today. Whoever gets Chu Kuang’s signed book and is willing to sell it, I am prepared to offer a high price for it.”

“That’s going to cost a lot. Is it worth it?”

The customer shrugged. “A thousand copies of ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’ cost less than 20,000 yuan. The bookstore also gave me a discount. If there’s no signed copy in this batch, I can give the books to friends or donate them so that more people can read this work.”

Reporter: “...”

Less than 20,000 yuan?

Are you kidding me?

It seems you don't know how difficult it is for an ordinary person to earn 20,000 yuan...

The reporter then interviewed the bystanders, asking for their thoughts on 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'.

This place was a bookstore, and the customers were all book lovers. There were many who had read 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', so they were happy to be interviewed.

"I am a fan of mystery novels. I loved 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', especially the ending, it's extraordinary! Because of this book, I've become a fan of Chu Kuang. Maybe it's related to the fact that I'm from Chu, the word Chu in Chu Kuang's name gives me a sense of affinity."

"It's a great novel. If I had the money, I would also like to get Chu Kuang's signed book... and then sell it to this guy."

"I haven't read 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' yet, but I came here today to buy it, as many people around me recommended it."

"I am also a fan of Chu Kuang. I want to say something during this interview opportunity. 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' is fantastic! It's not a cheap trick by the author. It's a completely new way of constructing a mystery novel. It's called 'Narrative Trickery!'"

"As a reader of 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', all I can say is that no one should miss out on the pioneering work of narrative trickery."

"I understand why this brother bought a thousand copies of 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'. Since Chu Kuang's debut, he has never held a book-signing event, so many people want to get Chu Kuang's autograph."

"...."

Not only was this happening at Time Bookstore in Sun City.

With the news of Chu Kuang's signed books, there were large-scale book purchases at numerous bookstore entrances and online order channels!

Obviously, all these were readers who were economically well-off and insanely worshipped Chu Kuang.

Moreover, there were indeed some rich people on the internet offering large rewards for a signed copy of Chu Kuang's 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'!

As a result, a lucky buyer who managed to get a signed copy of 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' resold it to a rich second-generation follower for 5,000 yuan!

You must know...

It's just a signature.

And 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', because of its relatively short content, is priced at only fifteen yuan.

After the news report, many netizens were dumbfounded.

"These tycoons really don't treat money as a problem. For a celebrity's signature, they almost emptied the little bookstore."

"A signature for 5,000 yuan is more expensive than those sold by celebrities!"

"I have a signature from a top-tier singer at home. I offered it for two thousand yuan but nobody wanted to buy it..."

"I heard that a certain basketball superstar's signed jersey sold for 8,000, but that's the signatures of the entire team and Chu Kuang is just one person."

“Probably because Chu Kuang has never held a signed book sale, so it’s relatively rare.”

“I’ve decided to buy a copy of ‘The Murder of Roger Ackroyd’. The content is the same. Others paid 5,000 yuan, but I’m only paying 15. Round it down, I saved 4,885 yuan!”

“I humbly call you a mathematical genius, buy a hundred copies and you’ll be rich!”

“Hahaha, you must’ve returned all your math to your PE teacher. Get out a calculator and do the math. You actually saved 4,985 yuan.”

“...”

The netizens enjoyed the lively discussion, and with each successive wave of buzz, the term “Narrative Trickery” began to resonate with more people.

“Stop saying that this novel’s logic is unreliable. This is called Narrative Trickery!”

“Narrative Trickery is okay, it is cunning.”

“Narrative Trickery, a very accurate description.”

“So this is Narrative Trickery, what a lesson!”

“What Narrative Trickery... I finished reading this book, and was completely discouraged from reading mystery novels afterward. Completely outweighed in intelligence, Chu Kuang, the old rascal, is such a scam!”

“...”

Seeing all these reactions, Lin Yuan was dumbstruck.

He was seriously considering the possibility of selling his signature.

Alright then.

This thought was quickly dismissed by Lin Yuan. He was still aware of the principle of scarcity adding value.

Now that Lin Yuan was in a better financial situation.

If it were not for that, Lin Yuan would not care about the principle of scarcity increasing value.

During these series of events, a small incident occurred that left Lin Yuan rather upset—

A user shared Chu Kuang's signature online, but due to the scrawled handwriting, it attracted a few jesters.

The top comment in his section was actually:

“Chu Kuang, the old rascal, take a break from typing and practice your handwriting.”

His handwriting was disliked!

Chapter 326: The Third Disciple

These people are too much, some of them even commented that my handwriting looks like a primary school student's.

Even more outrageous, Jin Mu bought Lin Yuan a few handwriting practice books, the intention behind it was blatantly obvious.

“...”

Considering that money was spent on these practice books, Lin Yuan decided to practice his handwriting, adhering to his principles of never being wasteful.

At this time, the progress related to Chu Kuang has improved again.

The most significant transformation was Chu Kuang's fan follower count, it escalated to over eighty million.

The Prestige Value in literature even breached six hundred thousand.

All the credit goes to "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd", the innovative nature of Narrative Trickery applied to mystery writing is beyond question, and another significance of this book is that it attracted some mystery enthusiasts to Chu Kuang...

The mystery genre is a big deal.

Chu Kuang, although a one-hit wonder in the world of mystery, still has a long way to go to conquer this genre.

On the other hand, many fantasy readers have been won over by Chu Kuang.

Keep in mind, with such a huge reader base, the overlap rate between the mystery and fantasy genres is not very high.

What Silver Blue Books and Lin Yuan didn't expect was that a few days later, the Literature and Art Gazette also reported about Chu Kuang's new book.

"Chu Kuang creates a new type of mystery: Narrative Trickery!"

"Chu Kuang may not be the first one to dare to juggle readers, but Chu Kuang is definitely the mystery novelist who has fullest played with fooling readers. And surprisingly, everyone is willing to be fooled. That is where he is brilliant, whether it's character depiction, writing techniques, investigative reasoning, plot-setting or detailed description, it is not too much to describe them as stunning. It is just that we still want to complain about Chu Kuang's wicked amusement – just like many fans love and hate Chu Kuang, the old rascal always loves to lay traps for readers. First, he brought chaos to fantasy readers, now he has extended his evil claws to the mystery circle..."

The Literature and Art Gazette's hasty attempt to define Chu Kuang's achievement with "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" in the mystery genre was premature.

But no amount of self-promotion about their own author can compare to the words of the official media.

Right now is when everything is finalized!

Narrative Trickery was officially recognized as a new creative method in the mystery field!

In fact, without waiting for the Literature and Art Gazette to make a move, many mystery novelists had already begun to create and apply Narrative Trickery techniques.

Just like Chu Kuang's previous works.

He has once again led a trend in a genre!

The publishing world is most familiar with this situation.

Because "following Chu Kuang" is the correct decision that publishing houses inevitably make every time Chu Kuang releases a new work.

In the past, it was the fantasy authors who were following Chu Kuang, now it is the turn of the mystery novelists.

This proves that in any field, following a trend is a ubiquitous phenomenon with the emergence of new types.

Just as Silver Blue Books advertised in "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd":

"Chu Kuang, always imitated, never surpassed!"

Having tasted success in the mystery genre, Lin Yuan is now considering whether his next work should continue to be a mystery.

No matter how the outside world evaluates Chu Kuang, saying that Chu Kuang never writes the same type of story, it is all their assumption.

Lin Yuan doesn't have such a taboo.

...

Of course, even if he is considering whether the next book should continue to be a mystery, Lin Yuan does not plan to configure the new book for the time being.

One day, Lin Yuan came to the company.

After becoming the representative of the composition department, he started to breeze in and out of the company.

Anyways, he's the big boss on the ninth floor. No one will check his attendance, because even if they find he doesn't attend enough, no one would dare to penalize him.

Who can afford to offend Maestro Junior?

Even if the matter is brought up to the higher-ups, they would probably say, "Don't be too harsh on young people".

This is how Starlight operates.

The company has lots of rules and regulations for people without talent, but it's always indulgent towards those who have real talent.

As for the extent of indulgence, it depends on the person's ability.

Upon entering his office, Lin Yuan called up Feng Shuo and Xue Liang: "You were saying that you found a new apprentice for me?"

Yes.

Lin Yuan came to the company upon receiving a call from Xue Liang mentioning that a potential new apprentice had been found.

“Yes.”

The answer was from Feng Shuo.

He seemed a little excited: “Master, you will definitely be satisfied with the person we have recommended – Li Lizhi!”

Lin Yuan was taken aback: “Deuce Li’s daughter?”

Feng Shuo and Xue Liang changed their expressions slightly:

“Is Deuce Li the pejorative nickname for the chairman...Master, please refrain from calling him that in the company... Li Lizhi is indeed the chairman’s son, and his only daughter.”

Lin Yuan was stunned again.

His only response was automatic.

The historical knowledge from his past life told Lin Yuan that Li Lizhi was the daughter of Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty.

But in this world, there is no Tang Dynasty, no Li Shimin, and certainly no Li Lizhi.

Unexpectedly, Lin Yuan did not expect this Li Lizhi to be the chairman’s daughter.

However, Lin Yuan doesn’t care about what identity his third apprentice holds, he cares more about talent.

Only those with high talent can graduate quickly like Feng Shuo. Those with poor talent can only be rejected.

“Where is she?” asked Lin Yuan.

This time Xue Liang answered: “She’s outside.”

Lin Yuan nodded: “Let her come in.”

Feng Shuo hurriedly went to open the door. This younger sister is not strictly speaking their choice, but she volunteered to come over after hearing that Lin Yuan was about to accept a new apprentice-

Li Lizhi!

The chairman’s darling girl!

The little princess of Starlight Entertainment!

Neither Feng Shuo nor Xue Liang dared to reject this girl’s initiative.

Even if this girl originally belonged not to the ninth but to the floor under Yang Zhongming.

“Hello, Mr. Lin.”

A young girl with long hair walked in from outside the door. She was wearing a plain white coat, the whole person exudes a fresh aura, perhaps because of being raised in a nurturing environment and being well protected, her eyes were as clear as stream water.

She was looking at Lin Yuan curiously.

After all, she had heard a lot of rumors about this man.

At the same time, she was wondering why Teacher Yang Zhongming did not accept her but sent her to learn composition with Lin Yuan, and her father even agreed...

“Hello, you can leave now.”

Lin Yuan checked Li Lizhi's songwriting talent, the data was 496.

Better than Xue Liang, inferior to Feng Shuo.

In summary, her aptitude is average.

Therefore, Lin Yuan decided to reject Li Lizhi.

In Lin Yuan's view, this is a normal thing.

However, Feng Shuo and Xue Liang looked rather taken aback, even somewhat frightened.

"Hello, you can leave now."

If it was someone else, it would be normal for the master to say this, but the person at hand is Li Lizhi, the daughter of the chairman!

The master actually refused her without hesitation?

What if the chairman is unhappy?

That's not right, the chairman probably wouldn't be able to say much against the master's decision, but is this blunt refusal really okay?

"Huh?"

Li Lizhi was taken aback for a moment. She did not get angry, but her heart inexplicably sped up.

Is this what rejection feels like?

From her childhood to now, this was the first time she had been rejected by someone.

Lin Yuan thought that refusal might hurt someone's feelings, so he said well-intentioned words: "You lack talent, I want to find a more talented apprentice."

Feng Shuo put a hand on his forehead.

Xue Liang looked down at his toes.

The master is comforting her, right?

It's comforting, right?

Why it seems as if he is twisting the knife in Li Lizhi's heart?

Although it's commonly known that this little princess has a good temper and is congenial, after being evaluated like this by the master, she should be somewhat angry, right?

But the two of them once again misunderstood.

Li Lizhi still did not get angry. Instead, she felt that her body was a bit numb. There was a little shame in her heart that she couldn't express.

Is this what being criticized feels like?

Indeed, from childhood to now, this was the first time she had been criticized.

She couldn't help but raise her voice slightly: "I will work hard."

"..."

Lin Yuan was not good at refusing others, but this concerned the difficulty of the task, and Lin Yuan couldn't possibly give in: "You can work hard somewhere else."

Feng Shuo and Xue Liang dared not breathe.

It's not that they were timid, their master was just too unyielding.

Li Lizhi was a bit unwilling: "I'll pay..."

"How much?"

Lin Yuan suddenly looked up, his gaze fixed on Li Lizhi.

His stare made Li Lizhi shrink back a bit: "All of my allowance..."

"Sorry."

Lin Yuan felt disappointed. How much could one's allowance be?

Li Lizhi spoke softly: "If one million is not enough, then I..."

"How much?"

Lin Yuan's gaze became sharp again.

Li Lizhi's voice was almost too soft to hear: "One million..."

But when it came to money, Lin Yuan's hearing was always superb.

Since he heard it, so Lin Yuan's expression changed.

Corrupted!

One million in allowance!

How many times that of my sister?

This is money that must be earned, to buy egg yolks for my little sister!

At this moment, Lin Yuan felt a bit ashamed.

Compared to Li Lizhi, my sister is living in destitution, I'm such an incompetent brother!

At the same time.

Feng Shuo and Xue Liang faced each other, they did not expect this daughter of the chairman to be so amiable. As expected of the famous good girl, she took all the master's words without getting upset. Such a gentle and nice girl!

"I'll take it."

Lin Yuan said solemnly: "From now on, you'll be my third apprentice."

"Huh?"

Li Lizhi was a bit startled. She was about to give up when Lin Yuan suddenly changed his mind.

"Little sis, I'm your second senior brother!"

Feng Shuo, who had been eager to call her this from the moment he saw Li Lizhi, couldn't wait to shout it out.

"I'm the eldest senior brother, hello little sister."

Xue Liang also smiled slightly. Since Li Lizhi had entered their master's door, in his eyes, she was no longer the daughter of the chairman.

The chairman is just the boss of the company, but the master is a god in his heart!

Feng Shuo's thought process was similar, so his demeanor wasn't as restrained anymore.

"Hello, senior brothers."

Li Lizhi obediently greeted them, then looked at Lin Yuan, her voice softer: "Hello, master..."

"Let's start the class."

Lin Yuan waved his hand. Feng Shuo and Xue Liang knew the rules. The master only taught one person at a time, so they both left together.

At this moment.

Lin Yuan activated the character card.

Li Lizhi suddenly felt that her master seemed to have changed...

Chapter 327: The Upgrade Effect of Teacher's Halo

Not only did Li Lizhi notice that Lin Yuan had changed, but Lin Yuan also felt a shift in himself.

This change specifically manifested when he began teaching and tailored a teaching methodology for Li Lizhi in his mind—

Before, when Lin Yuan was teaching Xue Liang and Feng Shuo, he was groping his way through the process, relying on the Teacher's Halo to enhance the effect.

There was no clear teaching philosophy to speak of.

However, in Lin Yuan's Teacher's Halo section, a new note appeared:

"Tailor the teaching to the student! Different strategies for different people! Apply different teaching methods to different people."

It turned out that this is the right way to utilize the Teacher's Halo.

In the past, the effect of the Teacher's Halo was mysterious. It was a simple and crude bonus to the effect.

Now, the Teacher's Halo has a more realistic technical content based on its mystical foundation.

You see, there are renowned teachers without the Teacher's Halo, their teaching methods are just superb.

Now, Lin Yuan possesses not only the metaphysical Teacher's Halo but also a systematic teaching method.

What is the most suitable teaching method for Li Lizhi?

Two words.

Strict, sharp-tongued!

He must be extremely fierce in his approach.

When Lin Yuan was teaching Xue Liang and Feng Shuo, he was relatively gentle. Being strict did not align with Lin Yuan's style.

But with the upgraded version of the Teacher's Halo, Lin Yuan realized:

The stricter he is towards a student like Li Lizhi, the better the outcome!

It was a wonderful feeling, definitely a new effect of the Teacher's Halo, just like when Lin Yuan gained the piano technique, countless piano knowledge would naturally pop up in his mind.

Lin Yuan is sure this is the right direction.

Since the direction is right, naturally Lin Yuan will apply the most appropriate teaching method.

To complete the task promptly, to better teach his third disciple, how does it matter if he has to become a strict teacher?

After all, “Strict teachers produce outstanding students.”

Therefore, Lin Yuan brought in a significantly different teaching style than before. He didn’t understand why the most suitable teaching plan for Li Lizhi is so extreme:

“Are you an idiot, summarize the music theory! You forget such basic college knowledge? If it’s a test, this would be a give-away question!”

“The scale can change! You only know the seven basic scale degrees?”

“Look at your composition practice...The chord progression is too conventional. Anyone from the composition department can write a melody of this level while using the restroom.”

“What books? Look at the blackboard...Why are you looking at the blackboard? Look at me... What are you looking at me for? Do I have words on my face?”

“Try resting here for four beats...I’m not asking you to sing, but to write it down. Your mind can’t seem to make a turn.”

“Wrong again! Didn’t I just remind you of that? Stretch out your hand, I’m going to tap it to make you remember better.”

“You have to remember next time. The chord progression is going to change... Lost in thought during class? Stretch out your hand, we need to reinforce your memory here.”

“Stand up, don’t sit! You won’t learn anything if you sit!”

“...”

Actually, in the beginning, Lin Yuan was a bit conservative, he really wasn't a very strict teacher.

Looking back on his student years, Lin Yuan did encounter some particularly fierce teachers.

Punishments like standing in a horse stance, hands beaten while standing, were common.

However, for some reason, no matter how stern the teacher was, they were always gentle with Lin Yuan.

But as Lin Yuan began to adopt this strictness in his trials, he found that it was indeed effective. After teaching only half an hour, he could clearly see Li Lizhi's improvement in composition...

The effect was immediate!

So Lin Yuan fully embraced this teaching method and completely submerged himself in the role of a strict sharp-tongued teacher.

Of course, corporal punishment was only administered ensuring that it did not hurt the student physically or mentally. This subtlety was made easier with the effect of the Teacher's Halo, Lin Yuan felt it was easy to manage.

“...”

Li Lizhi felt as if she was experiencing countless firsts in her life.

She was scolded for the first time!

She was punished to stand for the first time!

She had her hand hit for the first time!

Yet, strangely enough, she felt incredibly excited, a deep-seated excitement!

When Lin Yuan picked up the feather duster, not being light-handed at all, her body involuntarily trembled, as though a strange heatwave was stirring deep inside her...

What was even weirder...

The many things she didn't understand before suddenly became clear after Lin Yuan's explanation!

And there were countless moments of such enlightenment!

At that moment, Li Lizhi truly understood why her father and Teacher Yang Zhongming had suggested that she come to Lin Yuan...

You must know.

Li Lizhi's family, since she was little, hired only top-tier teachers for education. Yet none of those teachers were ever able to impart all of their music theory knowledge to her, like Lin Yuan just did.

This was a marvelous experience!

Shame, excitement, an odd sensation, trembling.

An hour and a half into the lesson, Lin Yuan halted his teaching and looked at Li Lizhi with disappointment, "You are the worst student I've ever had!"

"I'm sorry, Master..."

Li Lizhi hung her head low in shame, her face was turning beet red.

"That's it for today. Come back tomorrow. I'm going to check on the tasks I assigned."

Lin Yuan waved his hand dismissively.

Class was over?

Li Lizhi felt a sense of loss.

She walked out of Lin Yuan's office in a daze, feeling as though she had been stuffed with a great deal of composition knowledge...

"Junior Sister!"

Lizhi didn't expect to see her Senior Brothers Xue Liang and Feng Shuo waiting for her outside the door.

"How does it feel?"

Both of them were awaiting Li Lizhi's response eagerly.

Li Lizhi lowered her head: "I upset Master..."

Xue Liang was taken aback, "Master is actually quite gentle."

Feng Shuo also looked confused, "Master never scolded me during lessons."

"Hmm."

Xue Liang nodded in agreement, "On the contrary, the Master often encourages me and reassures me that it's okay to have a weak foundation; we can learn gradually. Master is indeed a gentle person at heart."

Li Lizhi: "..."

Had her palms not gone red from slapping, had her legs not been aching from standing, and had her head not been hit by the music teaching plan, she might have believed in the nonsense spoken by these two senior brothers.

She left under the odd stares of the two seniors.

Arriving at the 18th floor of the company, in an independent room, Li Lizhi plopped onto the sofa without any grace, picked up a cola on the table and drank vigorously through the straw.

If anyone saw this scene, they would be completely stunned.

This was because this demeanor was completely inconsistent with the ladylike image Li Lizhi portrayed in front of many others!

“Miss...”

Soon, a female assistant appeared, smilingly saying, “Everything has been arranged. Tomorrow, I have prepared an excuse for you to skip class, and the guild battle in the game is scheduled for tonight.”

“Cancel it.”

“Cancel? Then tonight... ah, are you going to play Werewolf again? You’re too good at it and no one likes to play with you.”

“No.”

“Well, are you planning to read novels? You have finished reading Chu Kuang’s new book, you even got the signed copy...”

“It’s not for reading novels either.”

Li Lizhi sounded tired, “Stop asking, sister, help me massage my legs, they are so sore.”

The assistant approached and softly asked, “Is attending class so exhausting?”

Li Lizhi’s gaze slightly changed, looking complex she said, “More fun than I imagined...Bring me some composition books.”

“Huh? Why?”

Li Lizhi puffed out her cheeks and then announced, “To do homework!”

The assistant got the hint, “As usual, are you going to get someone to help you...”

Li Lizhi shook her head: “I’ll do it myself.”

It seems like tonight is going to be a late night.

The assistant paused, finding it hard to believe her ears.

While few knew, the well-behaved girl who presented a ladylike image to the public, Li Lizhi, was a lazy teen who loved to drink cola, play games, and even watch anime in her private life. She wouldn’t be considered a bad girl, but she definitely did not fit the image of a good girl.

But something seemed off today.

Just after one lesson, Li Lizhi was already taking the initiative to do her homework for the first time ever!

Has she changed her nature?

No way, this must be just a passing phase, and she should return to her old self after some time.

The assistant thought privately.

On the other hand, Lin Yuan called for Xue Liang.

After giving Li Lizhi an hour and a half lesson, he planned to use the remaining half an hour to conduct an experiment.

“Master, you called for me...”

“Class.”

Lin Yuan was to-the-point.

Xue Liang instantly perked up, his eyes filled with joy, “Okay!”

“Let’s begin...”

Lin Yuan started the lesson for Xue Liang while there was still some time left on the character card.

Lin Yuan found that when facing Xue Liang, the teaching plan provided by the Teacher’s Halo was not as stern as before...

It was gentle and persuasive.

Turns out, the strict teaching method was only suitable for Li Lizhi.

After a fifteen-minute lesson, Lin Yuan stopped, “Call Feng Shuo over.”

“Okay.”

Although the fifteen-minute lesson didn’t help Xue Liang much, he still definitely felt that what Master taught seemed better.

The lesson for Feng Shuo was also fifteen minutes long.

And for Feng Shuo, Lin Yuan realized a change in the teaching methods his mind proposed –

Serious and orderly.

There was no need for a gentle approach or an overly stern one, just providing the knowledge points seriously was enough for Feng Shuo to absorb them easily.

After the experiment ended.

Lin Yuan nodded, signifying them to leave.

It seems that the teaching under Teacher's Halo now differs from person to person, and different methods should be utilized for different people.

Outside the door.

After leaving, Xue Liang and Feng Shuo exchanged a look and discussed in surprise:

"Did you notice that Master's teaching style seemed to have been adjusted a bit? I found today's lesson was easier to understand..."

"That's true."

Feng Shuo regretfully said, "Just that it was too short, only fifteen minutes, but thankfully, Master won't be taking any more disciples in the future, so each of us should be able to get a share of the sessions..."

Xue Liang nodded.

Even though it was only fifteen minutes, Xue Liang saw it as a hope, that Master seemed to want to continue teaching him.

You see, ever since he was told by Master that he could graduate, Master hadn't taught him anymore.

Therefore, he was extremely eager to have lessons.

Chapter 328: Third Script

The new effect of Teacher's Halo satisfied Lin Yuan very much because he can now teach his students more efficiently.

Feng Shuo and Xue Liang had already graduated and were up to the standard of gold-level composers.

Even though Lin Yuan has the Teacher's Halo, if he continued teaching them, their improvement would be limited.

However, with the upgrade of the Teacher's Halo, there seemed to be more room for improvement if these two continued taking classes from Lin Yuan!

It was good and powerful.

In the following days, Lin Yuan continued to strictly teach Li Lizhi.

The class usually lasted an hour and a half.

He used the remaining half-hour to guide the compositions of Xue Liang and Feng Shuo, as their songs were meant to be sung by Sun Yaohuo and Jiang Kui.

On another note.

Jin Mu, as Chu Kuang's agent, once again requested an increase in royalties for The Murder of Roger Ackroyd from Silver Blue Books due to its success.

After negotiations, a new royalty share was agreed upon, and Chu Kuang's royalties will be set at thirty-five percent!

Jin Mu had conducted special research.

The royalties of the top authors in the publishing industry are basically around thirty percent. Chu Kuang getting thirty-five percent is due to his versatility!

The other top authors generally only specialize in one genre.

But Chu Kuang was different, the genres of his novels covered a wide range, and he even started dabbling in mystery recently and achieved some success. Under such circumstances, Silver Blue Books had no reason not to provide Chu Kuang with a better contract.

“It will be hard to increase it in the future...”

Jin Mu was clear. This contract was already very high.

Unless Chu Kuang made bigger breakthroughs, it would be difficult for the contract treatment to continue to improve.

“Unless the boss wins the election for the best fantasy novel.”

This was the most direct option Jin Mu could think of for Chu Kuang to up his contract.

But this required qualifications, time, and accumulated sales of works.

“No rush.”

Lin Yuan really wasn't in a hurry. He now had many aliases and plenty of avenues for making money. As long as he took everything step by step, all would be well.

As Lin Yuan was taking things step by step, he received a piece of news.

The news was from Gu Dong: “Mr. Lin, the company has applied for the Dragon Award for the movie ‘The Tuner’, we just received news that the film has been nominated for three awards!”

“Dragon Award?”

Lin Yuan was somewhat surprised.

The biggest music award in Blue Star was the Music Ceremony, whereas the biggest film award was the Dragon Award.

Due to cultural isolation, each continent had its own Dragon Award in the past.

But now, at least, the Dragon Awards of the Qin, Qi, and Chu regimes have been unified.

Since Lin Yuan's debut, he had received some awards for both his writer and composer careers, but none of them reached the highest tier.

So, he never took these things to heart.

But if it's the Dragon Award, Lin Yuan held some anticipation, especially after the unification of the Qin, Qi, Chu regimes. This award had a much larger clout—

It could be said to be of Oscar-level influence on Earth!

Gu Dong was also very excited: “‘The Tuner’ has been nominated for Best Original Score, Best Actor, and Best Screenplay! With three nominations, we have a high probability of winning at least one.”

“Hmm.”

After all, it was the highest award in the film industry, Lin Yuan was also somewhat looking forward to it.

If it was in the past, Lin Yuan would definitely not take awards like these to heart.

But perhaps because he had made a lot of money now, Lin Yuan's pursuit and attitude towards money was much better than before and he was no longer the host obsessed with money in the system's eyes.

This could be seen from the fact that when Lin Yuan was customizing works and buying energy-related items, he became more straightforward.

After earning a certain amount of money, Lin Yuan thought, if he could win awards, it could also be seen as a recognition of his work.

In fact, the official award date was very close when the Dragon Award announced all the nominated works.

In terms of the timeline, “The Tuner” just caught the tail end of the award evaluation.

If it was any later, this movie would have to compete for the Dragon Award next year.

...

By the time it was April, the new season of competition began!

The difficulty of the season competition seemed to be lower than the previous two months.

In February of this year, Lin Yuan crushed the Chu people with “Mariage d’Amour”.

In March, Yang Zhongming educated the Chu people once again with the piano piece “Coloured Glaze”, accomplishing Starlight’s double kill!

Afterwards.

The Chu people completely gave up their covetous desire for the honor of Land of Music and ceased to compete!

Therefore.

The April season chart did not feature the chaotic battle of the King of Singing and Maestro.

This gave many gold-level composers a chance to shine.

As a result of this, Xian Yu once again attracted the industry’s attention!

Why did Xian Yu gain attention without releasing any new songs?

This has to start from the two composers in the top ten list.

For this season's chart.

The song ranked fifth was "Sunset", performed by Sun Yaohuo, composed by Carp!

The song ranked seventh was "Night Princess", performed by Jiang Kui, composed by Stingray!

It was widely known that Carp was Xian Yu's disciple.

But what the industry didn't expect was that Xian Yu turned out to have another apprentice—

Stingray!

Stingray was naturally the name Feng Shuo chose for himself.

Unlike Xue Liang, Feng Shuo was already a somewhat famous composer.

At the time of song release, he used his Tribe's platform to announce that he was Xian Yu's second disciple, and that "Stingray" would be his composer's artistic name.

This news initially didn't garner much attention.

But as Feng Shuo and Xue Liang both entered the top ten of this month's season chart, the industry was somewhat shocked.

Is Stingray also Xian Yu's disciple?

So the works ranked fifth and seventh are both from Xian Yu's disciples?

TWO of Xian Yu's disciples made it into the season top ten!!?

Keep in mind, the season ranking is at the combined standards of the three continents!

Those who make it to the top ten are all powerhouses!

"Damn..."

"Xian Yu is terrifying!"

"Now his disciples are starting to fight for a place on the charts!"

"Two years ago, there were still quite a few gold ranked composers who could compete with Xian Yu, now those gold ranked composers can only compete with Xian Yu's disciples..."

"Why is it fish again!"

"If Xian Yu also releases a song this month, won't there be three fish in the top ten?"

"Carp and Stingray, both have gold level skills, yet turns out to be only Xian Yu's disciples..."

"The real question is, does Xian Yu really have the ability to train gold ranked composers?"

"To become a gold ranked composer, it can't be that easy to train right? These two songs wouldn't have been composed by Xian Yu, right?"

"That'd be stretching it, Xian Yu can only give some guidance at most, if Xian Yu personally took it upon himself, it wouldn't be any less than first or second."

"..."

If Xian Yu were to do it, it would at least be first or second.

From the perspective of Xian Yu, Carp and Stingray's season rankings are unremarkable.

But keep in mind, these two are only Xian Yu's disciples!

It's not only the outside world.

Many people within Starlight were startled as well.

Personal strength and the ability to train gold-class talents are two different things!

Even Maestro would not dare to say he could train disciples to break into the top ten of the season!

Yet Xian Yu has done it!

This inevitably makes the company re-evaluate Xian Yu's worth, even though the company had already valued Xian Yu's skills enough.

...

Indeed, Lin Yuan did guide Xue Liang and Feng Shuo's new song compositions using the Character Cards, but overall, the credit should still go to his two disciples.

This point, Lin Yuan knows best.

As for the outsiders speculating whether Lin Yuan can teach gold-ranked composers, the answer is affirmative.

With character cards and the upgraded Teacher's Halo, Lin Yuan can indeed achieve that.

However, he won't brag about it everywhere.

Teaching his disciples takes two hours a day.

Time is the biggest cost, and he doesn't have that much time to nurture more disciples.

Although with the two disciples entering the seasonal top ten, there are such rumors within the company, and even some composers intend to take Lin Yuan as their mentor.

Lin Yuan disagrees, he does not want to become a disciple-collecting machine, once Li Lizhi is trained, he plans to stop temporarily.

Anyway, for Lin Yuan, this is good news, both of his disciples performed well in the tasks he assigned.

Good things come in pairs.

Just when Lin Yuan was satisfied with the performance of his two disciples, a few days later, a new piece of good news came—

The Dragon Awards ceremony officially took place.

The movie he composed, "The Tuner," won the Dragon Award for Best Music.

Lin Yuan didn't want to attend, so the company sent someone to accept the award.

Of course.

The other two nominations, "The Tuner" did not win.

Liu Zhengwen missed the best actor award.

The film also missed the honour of the Best Script.

However, being nominated and winning, are two different things.

Being nominated for three awards and successfully winning one of them was already good enough for Lin Yuan.

That's a winning rate of one-third.

Moreover, the nomination itself is recognition.

But it seems that System doesn't think so?

Not long after Lin Yuan learned that he won the Dragon Award for Best Music, System suddenly issued a new task: [We hope the host can receive the Dragon Award again. If the host accepts the task, you can get a superior script for 30 million customized price!]

"A script better than 'The Tuner'?"

Lin Yuan had an idea and decisively replied: "I accept!"

After all, even if he can't complete this task, the System can't take back the script. This System task is more like a disguised discount for his next film.

It seems that the system guessed Lin Yuan's thoughts: [If the task is completed, the host will be rewarded with a random treasure box!]

Random treasure box?

Lin Yuan was taken aback: "Bronze, silver, gold, and even diamond... all are possible?"

System: "Theoretically, yes."

Lin Yuan: "..."

Theoretically?

Who would believe in a pseudorandom system?

However, this is the first time the system has offered a random treasure box as a reward. Lin Yuan vaguely felt that there might be a good harvest.

So he said, “Start customizing.”

System finished customizing surprisingly fast this time:

[Ding Dong, congratulations to the host for obtaining the script “Life of Pi”].

Immediately after watching the movie.

Lin Yuan suddenly realized, the difficulty of this task was somewhat too high.

Chapter 329: Yu Dynasty (Extra update from Feather)”

First, let’s talk about “Life of Pi.”

This film is adapted from a best-selling novel by an Earth author.

This novel not only won the Man Booker Prize, but also stayed on the New York Times bestseller list for over a year!

A best-seller indeed.

The film adaptation, from preparation to shooting, took several years.

Even with Blue Star’s advanced industry technology, which could significantly shorten this time, it was impossible for this film to be completed and released as quickly as Lin Yuan’s previous two films.

Now about the film’s achievements...

A top masterpiece nominated for eleven Academy Awards!

Ang Lee won the Oscar for Best Director for this film.

In addition, the film also took home the Oscars for Best Visual Effects, Best Original Score, and Best Cinematography.

Four words can sum it up:

Horribly great.

The casting process for the role of young Pi in the original film took about six months. Director Ang Lee arranged for three rounds of auditions, ultimately narrowing it down to twelve candidates, and had to perform screen tests with each child individually.

This is something that Lin Yuan cannot cheat.

He too must choose his cast very carefully.

Because the lead male role is too difficult to cast!

And that's just one of many challenges.

Choosing a director is another big problem.

Lin Yuan is certain that this film is not something that a novice director could handle!

It's like some high octave songs, certain people just do not have the ability to perform them.

Even with Lin's script description, it would not be easy for director Yi Chenggong to shoot the words into the same practical effect.

The only way for Yi Chenggong to successfully direct would be to use a vast amount of system props to enhance his directing abilities.

Two words: burning money!

Not to mention the top-level demands of this film on various departments, including photography-

And the movie investment!

Another challenge for which the system has a solution is the problem of script adaptation.

The movie involves a variety of beliefs and religions. If Lin Yuan had to adapt it himself, he would probably go blind.

Furthermore...

The extensive special effects and preparation required for the film are also terrifyingly astonishing.

Shooting an entire movie in front of a green screen is obviously a major hassle.

So Lin Yuan is sure that he can't make this movie!

At least not in the short term. He can't shoot now and will have to hand over the script to the company and give them plenty of time to prepare.

"After selecting the roles, we would have to arrange for the lead actor to learn to swim... It would be a bit easier if the lead actor already knew how to swim. Besides, the crew would also need to experience the vast ocean waves... That's something many people have never experienced in their lives, how can you shoot something honestly if you haven't experienced it..."

Damn.

The more he thought about it, the more difficult it seemed.

There was no way the film could be completed within this year.

The system only charged thirty million for a script like this, one could say it was a noble act.

It seems the system is very clear about how difficult this film would be to make, which is why the price has been lowered. Mediocre participation would only waste a good script.

The quality of this script is much higher than that of “The Sound Engineer”!

“Let’s start preparing for it first.”

Lin Yuan had an idea. This movie would need at least until next year to start shooting.

That was too long.

He wanted to order another script from the system.

A script that could be filmed right now and wouldn’t be so taxing.

Preferably one that could be finished before starting on “Life of Pi”.

Otherwise, he wouldn’t be able to touch a new film for at least a year. That didn’t suit Lin Yuan’s character. Big productions need to be filmed, but so do films with smaller budgets and lower difficulty levels. After all, the criteria for judging the quality of a film shouldn’t just be based on investment and spectacle.

On a side note.

With the achievement of “Life of Pi,” Ang Lee can almost be considered the top director in the Celestial Dynasty, far ahead of the national teacher.

By the way to explain, Ang Lee holds a green card, but hasn’t joined this nation’s citizenship, a fact which sparked controversy.

The System has thrown a very difficult problem at me.

This is the greatest test Lin Yuan has faced since entering the film industry.

So, Lin Yuan is both happy and depressed.

Getting such a good script but unable to instantly make the film is truly difficult.

...

Lin Yuan is distressed, but the shock he has brought to the outside world has not ended.

It still has to with Xue Liang and Feng Shuo's songs entering the top ten of the season's chart.

The industry is fervently debating if Xue Liang and Feng Shuo, being Lin Yuan's disciples, truly result from Lin Yuan teaching them with genuine materials—he has delved in deeply.

After all, a similar situation has never occurred before.

Common knowledge tells us that to become a top-notch composer by education is almost impossible—you need innate talent.

However, as they dug more into it, many things became clear.

“I found songs Xue Liang, also known as Carp, composed early on in Qi Continent. It seems someone has also dug this up before...Saying his early works were harsh to the ears would be an exaggeration, but before he met Lin Yuan, Xue Liang's music composing level wasn't too good!”

“So, Xue Liang really was taught step by step by Lin Yuan to become a top-notch composer?”

“Not only Xue Liang, but also Feng Shuo. Feng Shuo's debut work was startling, his talent is evident, but before he became Lin Yuan's disciple, he had only published four songs, of which only one was stunning — the other three were relatively ordinary, simply proving he has innate talent.”

“Do you mean, Lin Yuan unearthed Feng Shuo’s talent?”

“Currently it seems, Xue Liang and Feng Shuo, also known as Carp and Stingray, were indeed trained to be top-notch record producers by Lin Yuan!”

“Both disciples are so impressive that we can’t help but wonder — at what level is Lin Yuan’s music composing ability?”

“There’s only one level, that is, Maestro, and Lin Yuan has also harnessed the teaching ability that other Maestros lack!”

“I think it’s only a matter of time before Lin Yuan becomes Maestro, just like his two disciples. Though they haven’t yet reached the benchmark for top notch composers due to lack of work, their skills are sufficient. All they need to do is publish a few more songs to increase their sales.”

“...”

Crash! Bang!

The sound of common sense getting completely shattered!

It turns out a top-notch composer can be taught!

Because Carp Xue Liang is a living example.

You could argue that Feng Shuo had a high level of natural talent, making it easy for him to learn, but Xue Liang’s previous songs, no matter how you listen to them, didn’t seem to indicate any significant talent!

Without Lin Yuan, Xue Liang might never have been recognized by the music circle under the alias Carp!

In the face of these discussions, Lin Yuan is unlikely to respond personally.

But Feng Shuo certainly loves the attention.

He released a statement directly via the tribe: “Everyone in the circle is trying to dig up mine and my senior’s past. It’s pointless. As the parties in question, we tell you: our skills were taught to us by our master. Besides, I would like to say, our master is the best in the world!”

Not long after this statement was issued, Feng Shuo came out with another one:

“If anyone is still not convinced, wait for our little junior sister to shine. Our little junior sister is learning how to compose from our master, and she will also surely take her place on the season’s chart in the future!”

When the second statement was released, the entire industry was flabbergasted.

There’s another “fish” not yet revealed?

No, not that.

Lin Yuan... has another disciple who hasn’t debuted?

If Lin Yuan’s third disciple also formally debuts and reaches the high levels of her two senior brothers, how terrifying that would be!

A Dynasty of Fish!?

No composer in history has ever accomplished such a feat, teaching two disciples to the level of Gold Record Producers! How terrifying would it be if there’s another one?

Hiss.

Some people drew in a sharp breath, almost not daring to imagine further.

Later on.

Some people considered this as the early symptoms of the collective fear-of-fish syndrome affecting the Blue Star music circle.

Chapter 330: Handsome

Industry insiders discuss the strategies while netizens are more interested in the excitement—

Feather's two apprentices bursting into the seasonal rankings is a spectacle that many netizens love, hence the lively discussions online:

“Feather is just so freaking awesome!”

“Did you see how awesome Feather is?”

“Feather is seriously impressive, both his apprentices have made it into the seasonal rankings. If he were to personally take action, wouldn't it be an absolute slaughter?”

“Hasn't Feather slaughtered many times already?”

“Whenever this happens, a piece of information flashes through my mind, Feather is actually still a university student...”

“I can't help but fantasize about a scenario: Feather's composition teacher suddenly says in class, ‘Why don't you teach?’”

“Hahaha, so he is going to teach too?”

“I heard Feather has a third apprentice, a girl. Tsk tsk, will there be a complete fish feast on the charts in the future?”

“Those who don't know might think the composition circle is a fish pond.”

“If Feather continues to teach, the music industry will sooner or later become a fish pond.”

“Maybe it will be an ocean, with Feather as the Sea King!”

“...”

Everyone’s discussing.

While the music industry is discussing Feather’s apprentices, the film industry is also discussing Feather.

It’s related to the recent Dragon Awards.

After the movie “The Tuner” was nominated for three major awards and finally won Best Original Score, it wasn’t a surprising outcome.

After all, “Mariage d’Amour” had dominated the charts.

The point of interest for the film industry was that Feather, surprisingly, did not attend the award ceremony in person. After all, “The Tuner” was nominated for three individual awards and it was unlikely that it would be ignored for all—

Normally, only those who think they might be ignored would be absent from such heavyweight awards.

But with Feather’s low probability of being ignored, his absence surprised many.

Just know this.

After the Dragon Awards announced this year’s nominees, many discussed whether Feather would attend.

If he did attend, the award ceremony would be the first public appearance by Feather!

The odds were high since the prestige of the Dragon Awards was at stake.

However, Feather’s absence surprised many.

Many netizens who were looking forward to this couldn't help but feel disappointed.

"Because he mainly dabbles in the music scene, he didn't attend the Dragon Awards?"

"Feather has won some awards in the music circle. Although they are not Music Festival level, some are quite impressive. I've never seen Feather attend though."

"Could it be because he's not good-looking that he didn't show up?"

"Careful, you might be flamed for daring to insult Feather's looks. Feather has a lot of fans."

"Alright, let me flame you back. Fish Papa's looks are drop-dead gorgeous (dog head)!"

The person even included a drawing, a very cartoonish image of a fishman.

As a result, there really was a discussion about why Feather didn't show his face.

"It could also be a height problem. Wasn't there a writer in the writing circle who was always unwilling to show his face? When he finally did, everyone realized he was a bit short."

"A university student in his twenties – youth is justice, right?"

"Looking forward to Fish Papa's appearance."

"Regardless of whether Feather shows his face or not, I have already imagined what he would look like. Just imagine the handsomest face in your mind, idols look handsome no matter what!"

"..."

Some artistically inclined fans have even drawn several cartoonish images of Feather, all of which are so handsome they're almost falling apart, the ultimate manifestation of a fangirl's filter.

The passers-by don't really expect much from Feather's looks and even teased the fans: "Don't let your fantasies be shattered, he's bound to show his face sooner or later."

...

Indeed, it's a matter of his face appearing sooner or later.

As Feather's identity isn't completely confidential, there have been too many people in Starlight and other crews who have seen him.

Even, someone who's seen Feather has posted on his own:

"I have worked on the crew of Teacher Admirable Fish. I've seen him, but since Teacher Admirable Fish does not want to show his face, I didn't have a chance to take a photo. If I were caught taking a photo, I might lose my job. But when I see some people doubting whether Teacher Admirable Fish is reluctant to show his face because of his looks, I can only say that you are too naive. Liu Zhengwen, handsome, right? Born with a God-like face, he's considered above average in the entertainment industry. Standing next to Feather, he kind of fades into the background!"

Similar posts are abundant, tricking the eye and blurring the truth, so most people didn't believe them.

Until this person posted the working identity of the "The Tuner" crew...

Although the key information on it was smeared, the credibility of the post skyrocketed!

"Do you believe me now? He's a real charmer! Xian Yu is a handsome hunk, the numero uno! He just prefers to low-key and not show his face. If he did, you all would probably be kissin' your screens."

This person sounded utterly sure.

And then, the post blew up!

Countless people underneath probed for more information, but this person only emphasized Xian Yu's super handsomeness and refused to reveal more. It left many netizens itching with curiosity.

"Is he really that good-looking?"

"Even better-looking than Liu Zhengwen?"

"How come I just can't believe it?"

"I've heard enough from people who claim to have met Xian Yu in real life, saying he's uber handsome. Should I take a sneak peek at Starlight's presence?"

"..."

Beauty is justice.

Even though some people may deem it shallow, just the news that "Xian Yu is good-looking" is enough to spark countless discussions among netizens.

It doesn't seem strange.

Even on Earth, a League of Legends anchor named Xiao Zhi, who doesn't show his face, attracts countless people's curiosity, let alone the level of Xian Yu.

Some have even run to the Admirable Fish tribe comment section begging for a selfie.

Of course, Lin Yuan would not reveal his photo.

He did not know why, but when the camera was aimed at him, he felt an instinctual discomfort, as if his hands and feet had nowhere to hide.

Lin Yuan himself couldn't quite articulate why he felt this discomfort.

That's also why he insists on not revealing his face publicly. If he were to do so, the number of cameras surrounding him would probably explode.

He even rejects requests for group photos from some people, even if they promise not to release the photos.

He knew he can't hide it forever, but he would try to avoid as long as possible, to unveil his face later.

The discussion around Xian Yu's attractiveness even extended to the people around him, such as Xia Fan who'd worked with Xian Yu before.

Xia Fan was recently invited to sing the theme song for a TV show. She thought everyone would ask music-related questions, but to her surprise...

The reporter actually asked her, "What does Xian Yu look like?"

If it were someone else, they might get angry. But as Xia Fan and Lin Yuan are on good terms, she just laughed and said eight words:

"Everyone loves him, and flowers bloom for him."

So, netizens' perception of Xian Yu took another step forward:

Xian Yu is as handsome as a movie star!

This increased the public's expectation for Xian Yu to unveil his face even more.

Jian Yi was a bit upset though. After the interview, he @Xia Fan in a small group chat: "Am I less handsome than Lin Yuan?"

"Can you get the dorm supervisor to let boys into the girls' dorm?"

Jian Yi: "..."

Yes, Lin Yuan can.

Back in high school, Xian Yu was the only boy who could enter the girls' dorm.

That time Xia Fan was sick, and Lin Yuan sent her some cold medicine.

Initially, it was Jian Yi who was supposed to deliver it.

Jian Yi couldn't get in; the dorm auntie felt that it was dangerous for the girls to let Jian Yi in.

So, he looked for Lin Yuan.

Even though he didn't want to admit it, Lin Yuan seemed to receive special treatment in many situations.

And that time was no different.

At that time, the dorm auntie looked worried and said something to Lin Yuan that Jian Yi still remembers clearly to this day:

“Be careful, boys should learn to protect themselves.”